

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18-23, 25, 26, 31-35, 37-41, 46, 47 and 50 are currently pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The allowability of claims 18-23, 25, 26, 31-41, 46, 47, 49 and 50 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 18, 25, 31, 33, 38 and 46 have been amended into independent form. Claims 4-10, 21, 47, and 50 have been amended in accordance with and to address the Examiner's objections thereto. The remaining claims as objected to by the Examiner have been cancelled from the application.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-17, 24, 27-30, 42, 48 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kesting, U.S. Patent No. 5,520,253, in view of Leger, U.S. Patent No. 6,092,608. The Examiner argues that Kesting discloses a counter-rotating twin shaft gardening/landscaping system including a frame, a first shaft, a second shaft, and a drive shaft, with a ground manipulation device, and admits that Kesting lacks a ground manipulation device that includes a plurality of arms. The Examiner further argues that Leger teaches a gardening system that uses ground manipulation devices that include a plurality of arms that to enhance the chopping and digging capability of the system.

As amended, claim 1 defines, among other things, a counter-rotating twin shaft gardening/landscaping system that comprises a first ground manipulation device and a second ground manipulation device, wherein at least a select one of the first and second ground manipulation devices includes a plurality of arms extending outwardly

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Appln. No. : 10/620,993
Page -15-

from the planar section thereof, wherein each arm has a first end and a second end each being coupled to the planar section to form a closed loop with the planar section. Neither Kesting nor Leger teach, motivate, or suggest utilizing a plurality of arms that extend outward from our planar section, wherein each of the arms has a first end or a second end each being coupled to the associated planar section to form a closed loop therewith. This configuration of the arms as disclosed in the present application assist in more effectively manipulating the ground as the ground manipulation devices are rotated. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over that which is disclosed by Kesting and Leger.

Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-16 are dependent from claim 1, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.


Accordingly, claims 1-16, 18-23, 25, 26, 31-35, 37, 38-41, 46, 47 and 50 are in condition for allowance and, accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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